

victim of it—but we see the ugly effects of government overreach.

It's very hard to pass a law in this country for good reason.

Our revolution was against a king. We chose to be represented by an elected Congress. They're the ones who are supposed to make the laws. Our Constitution makes it pretty hard to pass a law.

In some of our laws, Congress delegates some of the details of how to implement the laws to federal agencies—but it does it with specific requirements: Before those rules come out, the people who are governed have a chance to have a say. That's called notice and comment before you have a federal regulation.

Well, what's happening today is some of these agencies are using something called guidance to get around that requirement, to use the guidance as a non-binding way to tell the people. It's supposed to be a non-binding way of suggesting to people how to follow regulations that are properly in place, but what the agencies are doing is using the guidance to make new laws.

For example, I asked the assistant secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education last year, whether she expects our more than 6,000 colleges and universities to comply with her agency's guidance—these are issued without any sort of notice or comment.

She answered, "We do."

So her agency is writing detailed guidance governing 22 million students on 7,200 campuses and it could be some individual's whim or idea.

How frequent is this? The distinguished group of educators led by the Vanderbilt Chancellor and the University of Maryland Chancellor who recommended the 59 changes in regulations that I talked about said that every single work day, on average, there's a new guidance or rule from the U.S. Department of Education to a college and university.

So, here you are operating with federal grants and loans at a Catholic college out in the Midwest, and you know every single day something's going to change from Washington about what you're doing.

It's very important that Congress make the law. It's very important because Congress answers to the people. That's the way our government ought to work.

When Congress isn't doing its job, the people can throw the bums out. It is very hard for the voters to do that to an unelected bureaucrat, say in the Civil Rights office at the U.S. Department of Education.

So, I'm about to begin a project with one of our outstanding new senators, James Lankford of Oklahoma, to examine whether agencies are abusing guidance and how to solve that problem.

Thank you for inviting me here to speak to you today about this burr that's been in my saddle for a long, long time.

I think that what you are trying to achieve here today is one of the most important things we can do in Washington—because as hard as it is to pass a law, it is almost harder to end one.

Probably the most famous comment about that came from Ronald Reagan who said: "No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth!"

Well, at least once or twice, I'd like to prove him wrong.

Thank you very much.●

RECOGNIZING REED BARRETT

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Reed Barrett for his hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Reed is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and is a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. He graduated from the University of Wyoming where he was a psychology major. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Reed for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING BRIANA BLACK

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Briana Black for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Briana is a native of Casper, WY, and is a graduate of Kelly Walsh High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming where she is pursuing a degree in international studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Briana for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING BIRNEY BRAYTON

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Birney Brayton for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Birney is a native of Sheridan, WY, and is a graduate of Sheridan High School. He is a student at the University of Wyoming where he is pursuing a degree in political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Birney for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING ERIN JARNAGIN

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Erin Jarnagin for her hard work as an intern in my Republican Policy Committee office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Erin is a native of Green River, WY, and is a graduate of Green River High School. She graduated from the University of Wyoming where she was an international studies major, and from The University of Chicago where she received her master's degree. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Erin for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE MERCER

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Catherine Mercer for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC offices. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Catherine is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and is a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming where she is pursuing a degree in psychology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Catherine for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MICKALA SCHMIDT

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mickala Schmidt, once again, for her hard work as an intern in my Casper, WY office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mickala is a native of Casper, WY, where she graduated from Natrona County High School. She attends Casper College where she is pursuing a degree in international studies and education. She has again demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.